
6 EFFECTS DETERMINATION

The analysis presented herein shows that removal of an 8 inch wastewater pipeline is not likely to adversely affect green sturgeon, individuals of the Sacramento River winter-run chinook, Central Valley spring-run chinook, Central Valley steelhead, or Central California Coast steelhead ESUs, longfin smelt, or delta smelt. In addition, it is concluded that the proposed Project will not result in the “take” of CESA listed species.

Based on the best available data relative to species presence, sensitive fish species as detailed in Section 4 are not anticipated to be present in significant numbers at the site. Slight increases in suspended sediment levels due to pipeline removal are not likely to occur or persist at levels that are significantly different from background levels in the water column. Fish generally react by avoiding areas of high turbidity and return when concentrations of suspended solids are lower. The areas of turbidity associated with this Project’s construction are not expected to result in harm or injury, or behavioral responses that impair migration, foraging, or make green sturgeon, salmonids, longfin smelt, or delta smelt more susceptible to predation. Adjacent habitat areas also provide adequate carrying capacity to support individuals that are temporarily displaced during construction activities that may cause increases in turbidity.

The few individual fish that could potentially be present during construction activities would not likely be significantly affected by turbidity, and visibility for foraging activities would not likely be impaired to a significant degree. In addition, as described above, the quality of sediment is good, in that the sediment does not exceed Bay Ambient and other effects based criteria. Elutriate bioassays indicated that resuspended sediments would not contribute to any toxicity to aquatic organisms by a potential sediment plume. Green sturgeon, sensitive salmonid species, and longfin smelt, though possibly present in small numbers, would not likely be affected by exposure to sediments during removal activities. Delta smelt will not likely occur in the Project area during construction activities. In addition, based on the very small area of San Pablo Bay affected, the temporary time period over which the habitat would be unavailable for use by sensitive species, and the overall temporary nature of the loss, the potential loss of seafloor habitat from the action is expected to be undetectable.